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25944 7590 02/26/2009

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 320850
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

ZHU, RICHARD Z

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/725,408

12/03/2003

Yuji Hikawa

117184

4010

TITLE OF INVENTION: SERVICE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	05/26/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

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B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

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III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

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(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/725,408	12/03/2003	Yuji Hikawa	117184	4010

TITLE OF INVENTION: SERVICE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	05/26/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
ZHU, RICHARD Z	2625	358-001150

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
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4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Date _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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EXAMINER

ZHU, RICHARD Z

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2009

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1054 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1054 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/725,408	HIKAWA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	RICHARD Z. ZHU	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/08/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-32.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>10/10/2008</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

/Richard Z. Zhu/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/King Y. Poon/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement

1. Acknowledgement is made of applicant's amendment made on 12/08/2008. Applicant's submission filed has been entered and made of record.

Status of the Claims

2. Claims 1-32 are pending.

Examiner's Amendment

3. An examiner's amendment is applied to all independent claims as follow:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. When striketrough cannot easily be perceived, or when five or fewer characters are deleted, [[double brackets]] are used to show the deletion. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) a service processing device comprising:
a controller that:

(1) interprets contents of script data that describes a location of document data object to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document-data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations; and

(2) links plural service processing apparatus that are connected to a network with each other to perform the plural service processing operations to the document data on the basis of a result of the interpreted contents,

wherein at least two of the service processing ~~units~~ apparatus each perform a different subset of the service processing operations, and

wherein the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by first service processing apparatus and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing apparatus, the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing apparatus to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing apparatus, information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing apparatus; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing apparatus to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.];

the second service processing apparatus, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended) a service processing device comprising:

interpreting means for interpreting contents of script data that describes a location of document data to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations; and

linkage processing means for linking plural service processing units that are connected to a network with each other to perform the plural service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreted contents,

wherein at least two of the service processing units each perform a different subset of the service processing operations, and

wherein the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by first service processing unit[s] and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing unit[s], the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing unit to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing unit, information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing unit; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing unit to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.]

the second service processing unit, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) A service processing method comprising the steps of: interpreting contents of script data that describes a location of document data to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations; and

linking plural service processing units that are connected to a network with each other to perform the plural service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreted contents,

wherein at least two of the service processing units each perform a different subset of the service processing operations, and

the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by first service processing unit[s] and a second service

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processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing unit[s], the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data,

the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing unit to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing unit, information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing unit; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing device to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.];

the second service processing unit, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) A service processing device comprising:

a controller that:

(1) interprets contents of script data that describes a location of document data to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations;

(2) carries out at least one of the service processing operations to the document data on the basis of a result of the interpreted contents; and

(3) causes the service processing device to transmit the script to another service processing device for performing a next service processing operation after executing the at least one service processing operation,

wherein at least two service processing devices each perform a different subset of the service processing operations, and

wherein the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by first service processing device[s] and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing device[s], the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing device[s] to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing device[s], information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing device; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing device to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.];

the second service processing device, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A service processing device comprising:

interpreting means for interpreting contents of script data that describes a location of document data to be processed and contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations;

executing means for carrying out at least one of the service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreted contents; and

transmission means for transmitting the script to another service processing device for performing a next service processing operation after the executing means executes the at least one service processing operation,

wherein at least two service processing devices each perform a different subset of the service processing operations, and

wherein the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by first service processing device[s] and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing device[s], the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to

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produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing device[s] to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing device[s], information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing device; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing device to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.];

the second service processing devices, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A service processing method to be performed on a service processing device, the method comprising the steps of:

interpreting contents of script data that describes a location of document data to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations;

carrying out at least one of the service processing operations to the document data on the basis of an interpretation result of the interpreted contents; and

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transmitting, after execution of the at least one service processing operation is ended, the script to another service processing device for performing a next service processing operation,

wherein the plural service processing operations includes a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by a first service processing device[s] and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing device[s], the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the document data to the first service processing device[s] to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives, from the first service processing ~~unit~~ devices, information specifying a location of the processed document data, the processed document data being processed and stored by the first service processing device; and

transmits, according to the process flow, information specifying the location of the processed document data to the second service processing device to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data [.];

the second service processing device, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) A service processing device comprising:

a controller that:

(1) interprets contents of scripts data that describes a location of document data to be processed, contents of plural service processing operations to be performed to the document data, and process flow of the plural service processing operations;

(2) links plural service processing apparatus that are connected to a network with each other to perform the plural service processing operations to the document data on the basis of a result of the interpreted contents;

wherein the plural service processing operations include a first service processing operation to be performed to the document data by a first service processing apparatus and a second service processing operation to be performed to the document data by second service processing apparatus, the first and second service processing operations being different types of operations, the document data being processed by the first service processing operation to produce first modified document data, the first modified document data being processed by the second service processing operation to produce second modified document data;

transmits, according to the process flow, first instruction data to the first service processing apparatus to perform the first service processing operation to the document data;

receives a result of the first service processing operation from the first service processing apparatus; and

transmits, according to the process flow, second instruction data to the second service processing apparatus to perform the second service processing operation to the processed document data processed by the first service processing operation in response to receiving the result of the first service processing operation[.];

the second service processing apparatus, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

Support of said limitation is found in at least the example of Paragraph 56 of the specification.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with applicant's representative of record Linda Saltiel on 02/05/2009.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-32 are allowed for the following reasons:

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, and 31 recites limitation requiring the second service processing apparatus or unit or device, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves the first modified document data.

The amendment submitted on 12/08/2008 overcomes the original prior art of record ***Fukunaga*** because ***Fukunaga***'s disclosed network structure is completely different from that of the network structure required by the amended claims.

The closest prior art of record ***Nguyen et al (US 7136941 B2)*** discloses a pipeline processing system comprising a pipeline of filters each performing different subsets of service processing on a document (**Col 14, Row 40 – Col 15, Row 40**) being directed by a Filter Manager or controller (**Fig 2**) that routes document from one filter to the next filter

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(**Col 22, Rows 13-24**). These filters or service processing units, can be implemented as distinct image processing apparatus or devices located at different nodes in a network environment (**Col 4, Rows 25-38**). Nguyen does not disclose in a pipeline of said filters, a second filter, on the basis of the information specifying the location of the processed data, retrieves a first modified document data, which is processed by a first filter because it is the Filter Manager employing a filter director (**Fig 2**) that routes a document from the first filter to the second filter (**Col 22, Rows 13-24**).

Similarly, *Austin et al. (US 5689625 A)* and *Austin et al. (US 5761396 A)* discloses a network of distinct image processing apparatus or devices or units providing different subsets of processing on a document in a pipeline configuration (**Fig 13 and see Abstract**).

However, the current claims distinguish over *Austin* in that *Austin* uses a controller or document manager to route a document from one device to the next in the pipeline whereas the claim invention requires a controller that routes location data from a first device to a second device wherein the second device retrieves the document from the first device on the basis of said location data without having the controller routing the document.

The prior art *Hidaka Tsugutomo (JP 09-325928 A)* as submitted by the applicant appears to disclose a network of image processing apparatus that can perform different subsets of service processing on a document simultaneously (**Paragraph 31**) and every image processing apparatus has its own CPU for interpreting a job ticket generated by a client and transmits the document to another device in accordance to said job ticket (**Paragraphs 40, 51-52, message processing section in each device. See also Paragraph 93, 102, 112**). In contrast, the current claim requires a controller for transmitting location

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information of a document located within a first service processing device to a second service processing device wherein the second service processing device retrieves the document on the basis of the location information.

It is believed that Claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26 and 31 requiring the limitation as discussed above are patentable over the prior art and therefore Claims 1-32 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be labeled “comments on statement of reasons for allowance”.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Richard Z. Zhu whose telephone number is 571-270-1587 or examiner's supervisor King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. Examiner Richard Zhu can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 6:30 - 5:00.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RZ²
02/06/2009

Richard Z. Zhu
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2625

/King Y. Poon/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625